

SHOOTING AFFAIR RESULTS IN DOMESTIC'S SAD DEATH

Miss Hilda Willen Pierced Through the Heart by Bullet From Revolver in Hand of 14-year-old Wm. Cook.

Little Fellow, in Playful Mood, Pulls Trigger of Gun, Thinking to Snap Empty Shell, But Instead Kills Laughing Finnish Girl--Youth Nearly Collapses and Makes Threats to End His Own Life.

Miss Hilda Willen, a Finnish girl, aged 19 years, was accidentally shot through the heart and killed last evening at the home of Police Commissioner Cook. The shot was fired by William, the 14-year-old son of the police commissioner, who is almost prostrated over the sad affair, and who threatened to take his own life after the shooting.

The boy was brought down from his home by Police Captain Gammal at the request of Coroner Pohl and kept at the coroner's office until the arrival of District Attorney Allen. Meantime H. F. Prael, Albert Dunbar and Dr. W. C. Logan had asked the authorities to release the lad, and when Mr. Allen arrived the request was complied with. The boy was given over to the custody of Mr. Prael, as neither his father nor mother was in the city at the time of the accident. Mr. Allen said he was satisfied the case was one of accidental shooting, and that the condition of the boy would only be made the worse by detaining him.

Police Commissioner Cook has been absent from the city for almost two years. A few days ago Mrs. Cook went to Albany, this state, to attend the funeral of her uncle, the late Judge Flinn, and the house was left in charge of the servant, Miss Willen. There are seven children, one a girl, and Willie, aged 14, is the eldest. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cook returned to the city on last night's train.

Boy's Story of the Shooting.

Shortly after the shooting occurred the boy was brought down to Coroner Pohl's office by Captain of Police Gammal and was there seen by an Astorian representative. The lad was weeping bitterly during the interview, but between his sobs he related his story in a straightforward manner, and later repeated it to District Attorney Allen. Willie said:

"About 5:30 o'clock this evening I was playing with my baby brother, aged 3 years. For some time Hilda was playing with us, and the baby was running from her to me. Finally the

baby went over to Hilda and when I called to him he would not come to me. I told Hilda to send him to me, but she took him in her arms and would not do so. We were all laughing at the time.

"I had often playfully frightened both Hilda and the baby, and when the girl would not do what I wanted her to do I thought I would scare her. So I went up stairs to my father's room and got the revolver out of the bureau drawer. I knew that the revolver was loaded, but thought I could fire off one shot and then snap the hammer on the empty shell without firing. I went out into the back yard and there fired the shot, and then returned to the house, where I adjusted the chamber so the hammer would strike the empty shell.

"When I went back into the house Hilda and the baby were in the hall playing. I went to the hall and called to her to send the baby to me, at the same time showing her the revolver. She laughed and shook her head, and I pointed the revolver at her, thinking I would snap it without firing. She did not seem frightened, but laughed and held the baby in her arms. I again called to her to send him to me, and when she again refused I pulled the trigger.

"I guess I must have turned the chamber of the pistol too far, for the shell exploded. Hilda put her hand to her side and ran screaming to the kitchen. I was terribly frightened and followed her. She had fallen to the floor, but I supposed she was not very badly hurt and tried to get her to drink some water. She would not do so. Then I put some water on her head. I thought I should call Dr. Ball, who lives near by, and ran up stairs to call to him. When I returned to the kitchen Hilda was dead."

Shot Through the Heart.

The revolver with which the lad killed Miss Willen is in the possession of the coroner. It is of 25 caliber and an old, long-barreled Smith & Wesson, of six shell capacity. The gun is rusty and evidently had not been used for

many months. The ball from the weapon had struck the unfortunate young woman in the left breast, piercing the heart, and she expired in a few moments. The body was brought to the morgue from the Cook residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Cook Away.

At the time of the shooting neither Mr. nor Mrs. Cook was in the city. Mr. Cook left the city almost two years ago for the east and afterwards went to Nicaragua. He reached Portland yesterday and there met Mrs. Cook, who had gone to Albany to attend the funeral of her uncle, the late Judge Flinn. As soon as the matter was reported to the authorities an effort was made to get Mr. Cook over the telephone, but he had left his hotel and started for the train. During the absence of Mrs. Cook the house had been in charge of Miss Willen, who had never experienced the least trouble in attending successfully to her duties. The young woman was but 19 years of age and had come to this country from Finland about six months ago. She had worked at the Cook residence since her arrival here. All of her relatives live in the old country.

Boy is Heart Broken.

The lad is heart broken over the sad affair. When Dr. Ball arrived at the house the boy was almost wild with grief and threatened to kill himself. This fact was reported to Coroner Pohl, who saw to it that the little fellow was not given an opportunity to destroy himself. Police Captain Gammal brought him to the coroner's office from the home, and on the way down town he almost collapsed. He told Captain Gammal the accident might have been excusable in the case of a younger boy, but that a lad of his age should have known better than to have pointed the gun at the girl. For a time Captain Gammal feared the child would break down completely.

Inquest to Be Held Today.

Among those immediately notified of the accident was Herman F. Prael, Mr. Cook's business associate. Mr. Prael called at the office of the coroner and asked that the boy be given over to his care. "In the absence of the parents, I will take such action as may be necessary to have the boy released," said Mr. Prael. "The affair was accidental and I am anxious to get him out of custody as soon as possible. I will file such bonds as may be named." Coroner Pohl sent for District Attorney Allen, and when the district attorney had heard the story of the shooting he instructed the coroner to give the boy over to Mr. Prael. Coroner Pohl said that the inquest would be held today, but he did not fix the hour last night.

HAZERS GET BOUNCED.

Through Obstinate Associate Into Ditch and Trouble Ensues.

North Yakima, March 16.—Spense Cox, of Selah, was hazed here today by the Yakima high school cadet corps by being thrown into the icy water of the waste canal of the mill company. As a result seventeen members of the corps were suspended by Principal Ella Stair, who took prompt action against the assailants of the young man. The whole trouble arose over the refusal of the Cox boy to remove stripes which he was not entitled to wear, from the suit which he had worn in another school.

The fight against Cox has been on for some time. He removed the stripes a short time ago, but today he appeared at school with them on and defied the boys to remove them. They told him he would be thrown into the ditch if he didn't comply with their wishes. He refused, and they carried him away and tumbled him into the water, which is very swift at the place. He had a hard time saving himself from drowning. As soon as the affair was reported to the principal she suspended the boys. The city superintendent sustained her, and the boys are now awaiting a meeting of the board Wednesday evening.

There is considerable excitement over the event. Many people take the part of the hazers, while others side in with the faculty in suspending the youths.

BOY HOLDS WILD TEAM.

Horses Run Away But Youthful Driver Tires Them Out.

Alameda, March 16.—After clinging to a runaway team for two miles little 11-year-old Johnny Borman, of 602 Taylor street, was saved from death today through his own bravery in hanging to the lines and through the fearlessness of William Lane, of 2232 San Antonio avenue, who stopped the frenzied animals as they were about to plunge from the city wharf at the south end of Park street.

When the team was brought to a standstill, young Borman was found lying in the bottom of the wagon, weak from exertion, but with the lines firmly held in his hands. The wagon belonged to the Jersey and Enclinal creamery and was in charge of Albert Hitchcock, of 2304 Buena Vista avenue. Hitchcock was engaged in delivering milk and permitted young Borman to ride on the seat with him. While the driver was serving an order on Railroad avenue, near Benton street the horses became alarmed and started on their wild run along the avenue toward Park street.

Borman fastened himself to the lines and cleverly turned the runaways at Park street, so that they took a southerly direction. As they raced madly along Park street, several other vehicles started in pursuit. When the team neared Clinton avenue, Lane, whose home is close by, ran into the street and secured a hold on the lines. Together with Borman, he pulled the horses up and Driver Hitchcock soon appeared upon the scene and took them in hand. The animals were tired out and covered with lather from the effects of their long run.

CENSURES BALFOUR'S CROWD

Liberal Leader Will Move to Disapprove His Majesty's Government.

London, March 16.—In the house of commons tonight Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, liberal leader, gave notice that he would move the following vote of censure:

"That this house disapproves the conduct of his majesty's government in advising the crown not to disallow the ordinance for the introduction of Chinese labor in the Transvaal."

JOHN BARRETT TO PANAMA.

Oregon Man's Appointment as Minister Formally Confirmed.

Washington, March 16.—Favorable reports were made from the senate committee on foreign relations on the following nominations:

John Barrett, minister to Panama; John Beaupre, minister to Argentine Republic; William W. Russell, minister to Colombia.

GUESS WORK, SAYS HILL.

Securities People Now Waiting for Order From the Court.

New York, March 16.—Lawyers representing various interests in the Northern Securities Company were in conference with President Hill and other officials until late in the day. Later Hill said:

"We are waiting for the order of the court. Nothing can be done until we receive it. I would like to say, however, there will be no attempt to evade the judgment of the court. We have not any definite plan under consideration. There has been altogether too much guess work by outsiders. They have tried to make a mountain out of a mole hill, and there is not even a mole hill."

WITHOUT A SECRETARY.

President Wheeler of Berkeley Needs Successor to Nathan Moran.

Berkeley, March 16.—President Wheeler of the University of California is without a private secretary now that Nathan Moran has resigned the office he has held since William A. McKowen made his famous confession in December last. Mr. Moran has gone back to his law studies at Hastings and in the offices of Bishop Wheeler & Hoessler, leaving President Wheeler to get along as best he may with the services of Victor Henderson, Moran's predecessor in that office. Henderson is now acting secretary of the Board of Regents and will have to arrange his time so that he may attend to the duties of that office and the president's too.

Who Mr. Moran's successor will be depends altogether upon the action of the Board of Regents in selecting a permanent secretary. If Henderson is confirmed in the office then some entirely new man will be selected to carry out President Wheeler's directions. Henderson, in addition to being the acting secretary, was appointed land agent for the university at the last meeting of the Regents. This may mean that the board is getting ready to appoint Henderson, though Henderson himself says there is no significance attaching to the move.

In case one of the other 200 applicants for the position is given the place it is likely that Henderson will resume his former office of secretary to the president.

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